

R E M A R K S

Claim 1 is amended to specify that the nitrate nitrogen is removed from water, as disclosed for instance in the last full paragraph on page 15 of the specification, in the last full paragraph on page 17 of the specification, and in the Examples. Minor formal amendments are made to claims 1-9 in order to place them in better form for U.S. examination. No new matter has been introduced. Claims 1-14 remain in the application.

In the Office Action that was mailed on October 1, 2002, restriction was required between (I.) claims 1-9 and (II.) claims 10-14. Applicants elect the invention of Group I, with traverse. Applicants traverse the requirement for restriction on the ground that the inventions as grouped are closely related and that it would not be unduly burdensome for the PTO to examine them both in this application.

Drawings corrected as required on the Form PTO-948 are submitted in a separate letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, he is requested to contact Richard Gallagher, Reg. No. 28,781, at (703) 205-8008.

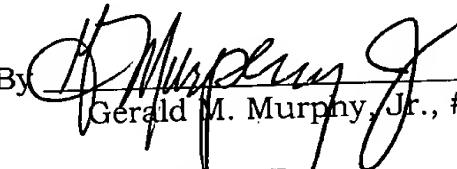
Serial No. 09/787,793
Docket No. 1752-0143P

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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GMM/RG
1752-0143P

Attachment: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (amended) A denitrifying composition for microbially removing nitrate[s] nitrogen from water, said composition comprising particles of calcium carbonate dispersed in sulfur.
2. (amended) The [A] denitrifying composition as described in claim 1 wherein particles of calcium carbonate and [those] particles of a substance possessing cation exchange capacity are dispersed in sulfur.
3. (amended) The [A] denitrifying composition as described in claim 1 wherein particles of calcium carbonate and [those] particles of a microporous substance are dispersed in sulfur.
4. (amended) The [A] denitrifying composition as described in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the ratio by weight of sulfur to calcium carbonate is 1:0.3 to 1:3.

5. (amended) The [A] denitrifying composition as described in claim 3 comprising [wherein] 10 parts by weight of sulfur, [coexists with] 10-15 parts by weight of calcium carbonate, and 1-3 parts by weight of a microporous substance.

6. (twice amended) The [A] denitrifying composition as described in claim 1 wherein said sulfur is amorphous sulfur.

7. (amended) The [A] denitrifying composition as described in claim 1 wherein the shape of said composition is granular, massive, or molded.

8. (twice amended) A denitrifying material comprising a mixture of [a] the denitrifying composition as described in claim 1 and mineral fibers.

9. (amended) The [A] denitrifying material as described in claim 8 wherein said mineral fibers are rock wool.